



Procambarus clarkii

Red swamp crayfish

General

1. Freshwater decapod growing to 12cm in length

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Gulf coastal plain from the Florida panhandle of Mexico; southern Mississippi River drainage to Illinois
2. Habitat:
 - Agricultural areas, lakes, water courses, wetlands, ponds, streams, canals, seasonal swamps, marshes
 - Tolerant to moderate salinity, low oxygen levels, extreme temperatures, and pollution
 - Thrives in warm, shallow wetland ecosystems of natural and agricultural lands
 - In cooler regions it prefers small, permanent ponds because it is unable to survive predation by fishes in larger water bodies
 - Frequently inhabits disturbed environments such as rice fields and irrigation channels and reservoirs
 - Populations are negatively correlated with elevation and flow velocity



Photo: Duloup, www.wikipedia.org
<http://www.issg.org/database/image.asp?ii=1827&ic=e>

Invasion Pathways

1. Likely an intentional introduction for aquaculture

Sources

1. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=217>
2. <http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=608&fr=1&sts=sss&lang=EN>